THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) While the scientists of NASA, USA are yet to confirm the existence of life on Mars, their recent studies based on the analysis of the Antarctic meteorite sample indicate the possibility that life could have existed on Mars in the early period of the planet's evolution.

(b) Indian scientists involved in research on origin and evolution of life are following these new developments and continue to study a number of possibilities of origin of life in the universe.

(c) & (d) The scientific issues related to the origin of life on earth and other planets are already being investigated at a number of research institutions and universities in the country. Based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for Space Sciences (ADCOS), the Department of Space (DOS) has been sponsoring brainstorming sessions, workshops and meetings where scientists from various disciplines discuss the global status of research in the field and propose new research activities to be taken up by Indian scientists.

Non-Conventional Energy Sources—West Bengal

5110. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS
SHRI HARADHAN ROY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the potentiality to generate power from Non-Conventional Energy Sources in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, scheme-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has supported a number of resource assessment and feasibility studies to assess the potential and to develop projects for generation of power from Non-Conventional Energy Sources in West Bengal. A potential of about 120 MW has already been assessed for small hydro power generation in the State. Ten wind monitoring stations have been taken up in the State to identify suitable sites for wind power projects. Three biomass resource assessment studies have also sponsored to estimate the potential of taluka-level biomass based power generation. Regarding the potential of solar energy, the State receives about 2600-2800 hours of bright sunshine and about 1700 KWh/m^2 of Global solar radiation per year.

Commercial Complex

5111. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has been building commercial complex;

(b) if so, the places where these commercial complexes are being set up;

(c) whether some Commercial Complexes are proposed to be set up at Vasant Kunj which is being opposed by the local residents; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to select alternative sites for these commercial complexes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The DDA has reported that the Master Plan of Delhi provides for five tier system of commercial complexes, *i.e.*,

(i) Central Business & Sub-Central Business Districts;

(ii) District Centre;

(iii) Community Centre;

(iv) Local Shopping Centre; and

(v) Convenient Shopping Centre.

All these shopping centres are distributed for assigned population in different zones/areas. A list of commercial complexes being developed is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) A commercial complex is proposed to be developed at Vasant Kunj Phase II on an area of about 65 hectares out of a total area of 315 hectares. DDA has invited objections/suggestions through public notice dated 19.5.96 on the overall land-use plan of the Scheme. No objection/suggestion has been received so far. All relevant factors will be taken into account before a final decision is taken in the matter.

STATEMENT

Tier system of Commercial Complexes are as under:

1. CENTRE BUSINESS DISTRICT & SUB-CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS :

   CBD Shahadara.

2. DISTT. CENTRES — 29 NOs.

As per Master Plan there are 29 Distt. Centres. 21 Nos. are within the Urban area and 8 Nos. are proposed in the urban extension area.